

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 11-16, and 19-44 were presented for examination and were pending in this application. Claims 1-8, 11-16, 19-21, 29-31, 33, 36, 39, and 42-44 are canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 9-10 and 17-18 were previously canceled.

Claims 22, 32, 34, and 35 are amended herein merely to include the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. Specifically, claim 22 is amended to include the limitations of its base claim 14. Claim 32 is amended to include the limitations of its base claim 29. Claim 34 is amended to include the limitations of its base claim 1 and intervening claims 2-3. Claim 35 is amended to include the limitations of its base claim 1 and intervening claims 2-5. No new matter is added. Therefore, the Examiner is hereby requested to enter this amendment after the final rejection under 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-8, 11-16, 19-21, 29-31, 33, 36, 39, and 42-44 were rejected as being obvious over Kurumisawa et al. (US Patent No. 6,252,572) in view of Iino et al. (US Patent No. 6,483,497). All rejected claims 1-8, 11-16, 19-21, 29-31, 33, 36, 39, and 42-44 are canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer, and thus this rejection is overcome.

Claim That Were Objected To

The Examiner objected to claims 22-28, 32, 34, 35, 37, 38, 40, and 41 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. As stated above, claims 22, 32, 34, and 35 are amended herein merely to be in independent form including the limitations of their base claims and their intervening claims.

Specifically, claim 22 is amended to include the limitations of its base claim 14, and thus is allowable. Claims 23-28 depend directly or indirectly from claim 22, and thus are allowable. Claim 32 is amended herein merely to be in independent form including the limitations of its base claim 29, and thus is allowable. Claim 34 is amended herein merely to be in independent form including the limitations of its base claim 1 and intervening claims 2-3, and is thus allowable. Claim 35 is amended herein merely to be in independent form including the limitations of its base claim 1 and intervening claims 2-5, and is thus allowable. Claims 37-38 depend directly or indirectly from claim 22, and are thus allowable. Claims 40-41 depend from claim 32, and are thus allowable.

In conclusion, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims 22-28, 32, 34, 35, 37, 38, 40, and 41 are in condition for allowance. Favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,
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[now, 37 C.F.R. §11.9(b)]
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